

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-12 and 17-31 are pending in this application. In light of the Office Action of January 26, 2005, applicants acknowledge with regret that the Amendment and Response filed October 4, 2004 was not fully responsive to the Office Action mailed August 11, 2004.

Applicants appreciate the additional time period provided by the Examiner to supplement the previous response. Applicants respectfully request that remarks appearing in the Amendment and Response filed October 4, 2004 be disregarded.

In response to the Examiner's request for species election based on the species presented in the August 11, 2004 Office Action, the species being identified therein as Groups I through VIII, applicants elect the Examiner's Group I as shown in Figs. 2 and 3. From the disclosure of the specification and Figures, applicants submit that elected species Group I includes (but is not limited to) (a) a shaft with a tapered end portion, (b) a combination with a lacrosse head and (c) indicated methodology of fabrication.

A listing of all claims readable thereon is as follows: Claims 1-8, 10-12, 18-21, 23 and 28-31. At a minimum, claims 1, 10, 19 and 28 are generic.

The claims presented of record, including the claims readable on the elected Group I species, are all believed to be in allowable condition. New claims 28-31 are directed to the elected Group I species and are submitted to be fully supported by the Figures and by the specification (see especially page 4 of the specification).

Undersigned counsel's check in the amount of \$175.00 is enclosed to cover the fee for the new claims 28-31. Please debit any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0508.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: February 25, 2005

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 25, 2005.



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Michael A. Hierl